

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1043

By Graves

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Gerlonda Hardin for her outstanding basketball career at Austin Peay State University.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those gifted student athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such talented individual is Gerlonda Hardin, who recently completed an incredible basketball career at Austin Peay State University; and

WHEREAS, born on July 14, 1982, she is the daughter of Josephine Hardin and the late Gerald Hardin and the youngest sister of Tonya, Rhonda, and Sonya; and

WHEREAS, she displayed incredible basketball talent from an early age, leading Springfield High School to its first sectional appearance in nine years while averaging 19.2 points, 11.0 rebounds, and 2.8 blocks during her Senior year; she was named Most Valuable Player of the District 10-AA Tournament and a member of the All-District, All-District Tournament, All-Region, All-Midstate, and TACA All-Star Teams; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hardin earned a scholarship to play basketball at Austin Peay State University, where she made an instant impact on the Ohio Valley Conference as a Freshman; during her first year in college, she led the league in field goal percentage and blocks, establishing a school single-season record of fifty-six blocks that included seven against national power Tennessee, and was named a member of the All-Freshman and All-Tournament Teams, three times as OVC Freshman of the Week, and OVC Freshman of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she continued to dominate her opponents as a Sophomore, posting the nation's best shooting performance by hitting all eleven of her shots against Eastern Illinois, leading the league in offensive rebounds, and earning recognition as Player of the Week twice,

a member of the OVC All-Tournament Team and Most Valuable Player of the OVC Tournament;
and

WHEREAS, during her Junior year, she continued to lead the Lady Governors to unprecedented success and in the process became only the fourth Austin Peay player to ever score 1,000 points and pull down 500 rebounds during her career; and

WHEREAS, her Senior season was her best yet, as she averaged an impressive 18.4 points and 8.7 rebounds per game and broke her own team record by blocking fifty-nine shots during the season; and

WHEREAS, during her career, Gerlonda Hardin posted the amazing totals of 1,863 points, 982 rebounds, and 223 blocked shots; each of those numbers would be remarkable alone, but taken together they give testimony to the singular talent of this incredible athlete; and

WHEREAS, she has won numerous honors and accolades for her performance on the court, including membership on the All-Freshman Team in 2000-01, the All-OVC Second Team in 2001-02, the All-OVC First Team in 2002-03 and 2003-04, and the All-Tournament Team each year of her career; and

WHEREAS, she was named OVC Freshman of the Year in 2000-01, OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player in 2002 and 2004, and OVC Player of the Year for 2003-04; and

WHEREAS, perhaps her most remarkable accomplishment was leading the Lady Governors to four consecutive OVC Tournament Championships and four corresponding berths in the famed NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, equally impressive off the court, Gerlonda Hardin has earned numerous academic honors while majoring in Business, including recognition on the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll, the Dean's List, and the Athletic Director's Honor Roll, and nomination for the Verizon Academic All-District IV Team; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable combination of academic and athletic excellence has made Ms. Hardin a role model for aspiring student athletes across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hardin's many accomplishments are a tremendous source of pride for her family, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, she epitomizes all that is good in today's student-athlete, as she has achieved the highest level of success in basketball, while evidencing the most circumspect character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent that Gerlonda Hardin has shown has not only made possible these prestigious honors and her outstanding collegiate career, but also surely bode well for her success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ms. Hardin for her many successes on the court and for serving as a fine example of the high quality of Tennessee's citizenry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Austin Peay State University and the people of Springfield in celebrating the many successes of Gerlonda Hardin on the basketball court and in the classroom, reflecting fondly upon the tremendous dedication and character that she has exhibited at all times.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish Gerlonda much continued success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.